
**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



STATEMENT

by

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OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

73RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
(Items 93 to 108)**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to address this Committee on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on All Disarmament and International Security Agenda Items.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, CARICOM extends its congratulations to you on your election as Chair of the First Committee and we similarly offer our felicitations to the other members of the Bureau. CARICOM pledges its full support as you embark on your Chairmanship of this Session.

We also express our appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Mohammad Hussein Ali Bahr Aluloom of Iraq, for his stewardship as Chair of this Committee during the 72nd Session.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM welcomes and fully supports the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament and we further welcome the three carefully articulated priority areas which form the bedrock of the Agenda: that is, disarmament to save humanity, disarmament to save lives, and disarmament for future generations. CARICOM is pleased that the Agenda for Disarmament has as a strong basis, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which in the words of the Secretary-General, is 'the world's blueprint for peace and prosperity...'. CARICOM therefore takes this opportunity to reiterate the importance our region attaches to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the contribution this Committee can make, not only to the realization of SDG target 16.4 but also to the attainment of SDG 5.2 to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Mr. Chairman,

The tenor of the statements echoed in the Hall of this august organization by our Heads of State and Government just days ago, forces us to consider the ominous state of affairs that currently embodies the world in which we live, including in the field of disarmament and international security. The scale and reach of international terrorism, the increasing influence of non-state actors, new proliferation threats and the continued escalation of strife and conflict between States, is unprecedented. CARICOM submits that the urgency of facing up to these global challenges must be intensified amid proliferating signs of uncertainty, instability and fragility.

Mr. Chairman,

It has been said many times by CARICOM in this Committee, that this is a concern for us, as Small Island Developing States which rely on the rule of law at the national and international levels in

order to guarantee our right to a secure, sovereign and peaceful existence. CARICOM therefore strongly encourages all States to act consistently within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations on all matters related to disarmament and international security.

Mr. Chairman,

The prevalence of gun related fatalities due to the proliferation of illegal arms and ammunition, illicit drugs, money laundering, cyber-crime and other dimensions of trans-boundary criminal activities pose the most significant threats to the security of CARICOM. However, we are doing our part. The implementing agency on strategies related to crime and security, CARICOM IMPACS, continues to tackle the multi-dimensional nature of crime and security. In keeping with the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy, CARICOM IMPACS has embarked on a number of initiatives and partnerships to track the proceeds of crime. CARICOM IMPACS has also been working on assets recovery in the area of asset tracing, asset management and prosecuting assets forfeiture cases, with capacity building at the level of the judiciary, prosecutors and detectives.

Illegal firearms feature in many of the crimes of violence and homicides committed in CARICOM Member States. CARICOM's response has been one of heightened priority on discussion agendas and has articulated its support of the United Nations Programme of Action (PoA) as one of the primary international instruments for the controls of small arms and light weapons.

Additionally, the CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons sought to implement all necessary actions at the national and regional level to fully combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition in alignment with international instruments. This includes the development and implementation of national action plans, capacity building within national and regional security entities and implementation and enforcement of policies and legislation.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM has found non-binding legal agreements to be of tremendous assistance in our attempts to address the illicit arms trade in our region. We therefore reiterate the importance we place on the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all Its Aspects (UN-POA), as an important instrument in mobilizing international cooperation to curb the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. While we strive for consensus during negotiations on substantive issues related to the UN-POA, we welcome the outcome document of the recently concluded 2018 Review Conference. We are pleased that the outcome document has upheld the recognition of the linkages between small arms issues and gender perspectives. CARICOM is also pleased with the inclusion of overt references to ammunition whereas States that apply provisions of the POA to small arms and light weapons ammunition can exchange and as appropriate, apply relevant experiences, lessons learned

and best practices acquired within the framework of other relevant instruments to which the State is a party.

In this connection, CARICOM remains firm in our conviction that the ATT can contribute significantly to reducing the suffering of many of our citizens and countless people around the world, especially women and children, who live daily under the deadly and devastating impact of the unregulated trade in conventional arms.

As the life of the ATT progresses beyond the recently concluded Fourth Conference of States Parties, CARICOM wishes to underline that for the ATT to be a success, it must be implemented in good faith by all States Parties including the major manufacturers, exporters and importers of conventional weapons. We welcome Latvia's Presidency of the Fifth CSP.

Mr. Chairman,

It would be remiss if CARICOM fails to highlight the continued support it receives from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. This organization has supported and assisted Member States of CARICOM in capacity building measures and technical assistance programmes. We look forward to continued collaboration in this respect.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, CARICOM wishes to recall the words of the Secretary-General when speaking of his Agenda for Disarmament, *'The total elimination of nuclear weapons is in the DNA of the United Nations. Indeed, it was the subject of the very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1946'*.

In this respect, CARICOM is proud to be part of the first densely populated region in the world to declare itself a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, pursuant to the Treaty of Tlateloco, which established the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL).

Mr. Chairman,

We agree that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is central to the maintenance of international peace and security. The NPT has successfully limited the number of States that possess nuclear weapons. Its safeguards regime provides assurance of the exclusively peace nature of civil nuclear programmes. The NPT is also essential to preserving an environment conducive to disarmament. CARICOM appeals to all states, including non-parties, to adhere to the non-proliferation and

disarmament obligations and commitments under the NPT. In this connection, CARICOM recognizes the preparatory processes leading up to the 2020 NPT Review Conference and we assure States Parties of our intention to be a constructive participant in the Conference itself.

Mr. Chairman,

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted last year and central in the awarding of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, demonstrated strong international support for a permanent end to the threat posed by nuclear arms. It was a call to break the stalemate in nuclear disarmament negotiations. CARICOM Member States joined like-minded States in the negotiation of this historic Treaty and we are pleased that since its opening for signature on September 20, 2017, there are already 69 Signatory States and 19 States Parties to the Treaty. CARICOM is proud that one of our Member States, Guyana, has already ratified the Treaty and Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are signatories. More CARICOM countries are expected to do the same in short order as we seek to contribute to the Treaty's early entry into force and to its universal adherence.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM's long-standing commitment to working in a multilateral environment to address threats posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction has been underscored by our ratification of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons.

Without question, regional progress in preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction is inextricably linked to our economic viability.

CARICOM benefitted from the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency in strengthening our capacity through the sharing of best practices and transfer of technology; from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in providing specialized training in emergency response to deliberate or accidental use of chemical agents.

We also commend the efforts of the CARICOM Regional Coordinator for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540, in his continued efforts to sensitize CARICOM on responses to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Explosive emergencies and look forward to participating in the Regional Conference for the States of Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of resolution 1540 in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and supported by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, in November of this year.

Mr. Chairman,

There has been significant growth in Cybercrime in the Caribbean. These activities point to the existence of significant cyber security vulnerabilities in the protection frameworks for persons, possessions and privacy and which extend more generally to the information and critical national infrastructures. Cybercrime could have a devastating impact on national security and, if not addressed urgently, could severely hamper social and economic development of CARICOM States. In the Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community 2015-2019, Cybercrime is listed as an obstacle and threat to social and sustained economic development in CARICOM.

In this connection, the CARICOM Cyber Security and Cybercrime Action Plan, developed in 2016, seeks to address the Cyber Security vulnerabilities in each participating CARICOM country and to establish a practical, harmonized standard of practices, systems and expertise for Cyber Security, to which each State could aspire in the short and medium terms. It also seeks to build the required capacity and infrastructure to allow for the timely detection, investigation and prosecution of Cybercrime and possible linkages to other forms of criminal activity. Strengthening Cyber Security is seen as a strategy to achieve technological resilience but is also linked to strategies needed to achieve social resilience and citizen security.

The Caribbean in its nascent stage of development in cyber security and cybercrime and therefore welcomes continued capacity-building efforts and international cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

The area of women and disarmament is of particular significance to our region. Trinidad and Tobago, with the support of CARICOM, will again sponsor its biennial resolution entitled, *Women, Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Arms Control*, during this Session of this Committee. This year, the resolution has been updated to reflect recent developments in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and related issues. Once again, we welcome the support of the Committee for this very important resolution.

Further, Mr. Chairman, CARICOM wishes to highlight the important role of civil society in the field of disarmament and international security. We value our partnership with members of civil society and commit to continuing our collaboration with them in order to advance the goal of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM renews its pledge to work with the international community in realizing to the fullest extent one of the founding principles as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, that of the maintenance of international peace and security.

Let us demonstrate the necessary political will to create a peaceful and secure international environment for future generations.

I thank you.